

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A (DECLASSIFIED UPON RECEIPT)

TAGS: SHUM, NP

SUBJECT: AP STORY ON RELEASE OF B.P. KOIRALA

REF: (A) STATE 50439; (B) NEW DELHI 3279

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE FOLLOWING IS AP'S STORY ON
THE RELEASE OF KOIRALA AS READ TO NEA/INS OVER THE PHONE.
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, IT HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP
BY ANY U.S. NEWSPAPER.

BEGIN TEXT: AP STORY

THE U.S. PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE
FROM JAIL OF NEPAL'S FORMER PRIME MINISTER, ON TRIAL FOR
SEDITION AND TREASON CHARGES, STATE SOURCES SAID MONDAY.
KING BIRENDRA LAST WEEK GAVE KOIRALA PERMISSION TO INTERRUPT
HIS HEARINGS BEFORE A ONE MAN TRIBUNAL AND SEEK MEDICAL
TREATMENT FOR HIS CIRCULATORY AILMENT IN THIS TINY HIMALAYAN
KINGDOM.

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THE SIXTY-FOUR YEAR OLD KOIRALA, ACQUITTED ON FOUR OF EIGHT
CHARGES AGAINST HIM, WAS RELEASED ON BAIL THURSDAY INSTEAD
OF COMPLETING HIS TRIAL.

"WE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT" A
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE SAID, ADDING "WE SHOULD EM-

PHASIZE THAT IT WAS THE KING'S DECISION" TO FREE KOIRALA.

IT WAS KNOWN "THE KING WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A GROUP OF PHYSICIANS" THIS SOURCE, WHO DID NOT WANT TO BE IDENTIFIED, SAID IN A PHONE CALL FROM WASHINGTON. HE ADDED THAT THE DOCTOR KOIRALA HAD SEEN IN NEW YORK WHEN PAROLED LAST SUMMER FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT "ALSO WAS CONCERNED FOR HIS HEALTH". "WE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE, MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN. WE RESPECTED NEPALESE SENSITIVITIES" THE OFFICIAL CONTINUED.

DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. LAST YEAR KOIRALA HAD TOLD REPORTERS THAT A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD HELP THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS LANDLOCKED NATION OF TWELVE MILLION PEOPLE. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER NEVER FORMALLY REQUESTED SUCH A MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, BUT THAT A WHITE HOUSE ASSISTANT HAD CALLED KOIRALA TO EXTEND CONCERN FOR HIS HEALTH AFTER HE UNDERWENT SURGERY.

KOIRALA, NEPAL'S ONLY DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRIME MINISTER WAS DRIVEN FROM OFFICE SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO WHEN KING MAHENDRA TOOK OVER THE GOVERNMENT. HE WAS JAILED WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS COUNTRY IN JANUARY, 1976. END TEXT. VANCE

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